

BILL # HB 2325

TITLE: concealed weapons permit; lifetime issuance

SPONSOR: Gray C

STATUS: As Amended by House JUD

REQUESTED BY: House

PREPARED BY: Martin Lorenzo III

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

A.R.S. 13-3112 currently requires that any person who submits an application and meets the qualifications listed, be issued a permit to carry a concealed weapon. On issuance, a permit is valid for four years. HB 2325 eliminates the renewal process and extends the permit to the lifetime of the permit holder. In addition, the bill reduces the length of the firearms safety training course from 16 hours to 8 hours and requires a criminal history records check of all permit holders every five years.

Estimated Impact

The JLBC Staff estimates that HB 2325 will result in a decrease of \$(354,400) in annual revenue for the Arizona Highway Patrol Fund and a decrease of \$(17,300) in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Records Processing Fund. DPS estimates a reduction in revenues in the range of 45% - 50%, which corresponds to a dollar amount decrease in the range of \$360,300 and \$400,300 using the current fee structure. The Concealed Weapon Permit Unit (Unit) is self-funded through initial and renewal permit application fees. Since renewals represent roughly 46% of annual revenues, DPS estimates that the unit will either need to reduce expenditures by a corresponding amount or increase fees for new permit applications.

Analysis

The Concealed Weapon Permit Unit is located within the Department of Public Safety and operates under authority of the State of Arizona concealed weapon permit law. They are responsible for upholding and enforcing all laws pertaining to concealed weapon (CCW) permits. The Unit is self-funded primarily through the fees received from both new and renewal applications for CCW permits. The current fee for new applications and renewal applications are \$65 of which \$22 goes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), \$41 is deposited into the Highway Patrol Fund and \$2 is deposited into the DPS Records Processing Fund.

On average, the Unit has processed approximately 17,164 applications per fiscal year since its inception in FY 1995. Since FY 1999, renewals on average account for approximately 8,644 applications or 46% of the total applications processed each fiscal year. Based on the average annual renewal applications processed of 8,644 and the corresponding fees, the JLBC Staff estimates decreased revenues of \$(354,400) to the Arizona Highway Patrol Fund and \$(17,300) to the DPS Records Processing Fund. DPS has the authority to set a reasonable application fee for a CCW permit and as such the department has indicated they may adjust the fee and/or increase the Unit's efficiency to adjust for the projected loss of revenue.

The agency currently employs 8 FTE Positions including 0.5 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant, 2 Officers, 2 Criminal Records Specialists, 0.5 Administrative Secretary and 2 Administrative Assistants. As a result of the elimination of the renewal process, the Unit's application workload will decrease on average by approximately 46% annually.

Local Government Impact

No impact.

2/17/05